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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

46-48

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Control: 17971  
Rec'd: October 24, 1962  
11:13 p.m.

Action

ARA

Info

FROM: Caracas

SS

TO: Secretary of State

SR

NO: 503, October 24, 7 p.m.

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DEPARTMENT PASS ARMY, NAVY, AIR, POLAD CINCARIB, POLAD CINCLANT

SAL

EUR

Caracas continued calm today but there was underlying feeling of nervousness and expectancy in connection with imminent confrontation Soviet convoy with US Naval forces.

IO

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USIA

SCA

Opposition controlled Chamber of Deputies last night refused to strip Parliamentary immunity from MIR Deputy Simon Saez Merida who government claimed was involved in Carupano revolt.

NSC

INR

CIA

NSA

CSD

ARMY

NAVY

AIR

JUS

TRSY

COPEI issued strong statement last night in support of GOV and US actions and called on all sectors society back up these initiatives. COPEI leaders today expressed to Embassy officers their solid support, offered help in any way, and claimed US patient policy toward Cuba was paying off as evidenced by hemispheric unanimity.

RMR

One COPEI deputy stated that PCV Senator Jesus Faria had expressed to him serious concern situation, saying he convinced US was not bluffing and he knew for fact, having attended last world-wide Communist Party congress, that USSR could not and would not back down. This COPEI Deputy also said MIR leader Domingo Alberto Rangel told him yesterday that on recent trip to Habana Castro had told him Cuba after November 1st, "if nothing happened" would be in position help revolutionary parties throughout hemisphere.

Embassy has had no confirmation that Betancourt will speak to nation tonight but knows he is contemplating speech in next

day or

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